We never valued this poor seat of England[7];
And therefore, living hence[8], did give ourself

7 — this poor SEAT of England;] By the *seat* of England, the King, I believe, means the *throne.* So, Othello boasts that he
Is descended "* from men of *royal siege.*"
Henry afterwards says, he will rouse him in his *throne* of *France.* The words below, "I will keep my *state,*" likewise confirm this interpretation. For this meaning of the word *state,* see vol. xi. p. 164, n. 5. So, in King Richard II. :

" Yea, distaff-women manage rusty bills
" Against thy *seat.*"

Again, in King Richard III.:

" The supreme *seat,* the throne majestical—."

Again, in King Henry VI. Part II.:

" The rightful heir to *England's royal seat*"

MALONE.

8 And therefore, living HENCE,] This expression has strength and energy: he never valued England, and therefore lived *hence,* i. e. as if absent from it. But the Oxford editor alters *hence* to *here.* WARBURTON.

Living hence means, I believe, *withdrawing from the court,* the place in which he is now speaking.

Perhaps Prospero, in The Tempest, has more clearly expressed the same idea, when he says :

" The government I cast upon my brother,
" And *to my state grew stranger,*" STEEVENS.

In King Richard II. Act V. Sc. II. King Henry IV. complains that he had not seen his son for three months, and desires that he may be enquired for among the taverns, where he daily frequents,—

" With unrestrained and loose companions."

See also King Henry IV. Part II. Act III. Sc. II.:

" Thy place in council thou hast rudely lost,
** Which by thy younger brother is supplied;
" And art almost *an alien* to the hearts
" Of all *the court* and princes of my blood."

There can therefore be no doubt that Mr. Steevens's explanation is just. *Hence* refers to the *seat* or *throne of England* mentioned in the preceding line, on which Henry is now sitting. An anonymous Remarker says, " It is evident that the word *hence* implies *here.*" If *hence* means *here,* any one word, as Dr. Johnson has somewhere observed, may stand for another. It undoubtedly does not signify *here* in the present passage: and if it did, would render what follows nonsense. MALONE.

The more I consider this passage, and the remarks of its various commentators, the more convinced I am that the present

reading cannot be reconciled to sense. M. MASON.